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WASHINGTON - THE CIA AND ITS ALLIES IN THE GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ARE TAKING THE OFFENSIVE IN THE COURTS AND IN CONGRESS TO IMPOSE NEW CRIMINAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES.

IN ADDITION TO SEEKING NEW CRIMINAL LAWS, THE CIA IS SEEKING CHANGES IN THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT THAT WOULD EXEMPT THE AGENCY FROM HAVING TO PRODUCE ANY INFORMATION IN ITS FILES.

WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS FROM ITS LABOR DAY RECESS, IT WILL TAKE UP TWO CRIMINAL BILLS REPORTED OUT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES. THESE BILLS SEEK NEW CRIMINAL PENALTIES AGAINST FORMER AND CURRENT INTELLIGENCE AGENTS FOR WRITING BOOKS OR ARTICLES THAT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF ANY INTELLIGENCE AGENT (INCLUDING THE AUTHOR-AGENT HIMSELF) OR ANY OTHER SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, EVEN IF THESE AGENTS OR SOURCES HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES OR VIOLATED PUBLISHED POLICY GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE CIA IS MOVING IN THE COURTS TO ENFORCE A RECENT SUPREME COURT RULING THAT THE CIA CAN BLOCK THE PUBLICATION OF ALL BOOKS AND ARTICLES BY FORMER AGENTS UNLESS THE CIA CLEARS THEM, EVEN IF THE BOOKS OR ARTICLES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE NATIONAL SECURITY.

PURSUANT TO THAT SUPREME COURT DECISION, THE CIA HAS FILED THREE LAWSUITS AGAINST FORMER AGENTS SEEKING TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF THEIR BOOKS. IT HAS ALSO FILED A FOURTH LAWSUIT AGAINST A FORMER AUTHOR-AGENT ATTEMPTING TO REVOKE HIS PASSPORT SO THAT HE CANNOT PUBLISH ANY FURTHER BOOKS ABROAD, OUTSIDE THE REACH OF AMERICAN LAW.

THIS COORDINATED CONGRESSIONAL AND JUDICIAL OFFENSIVE IS BEING DIRECTED BY CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER IN COOPERATION WITH FBI DIRECTOR WILLIAM WEBSTER, AND IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THE CIA IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE ABROAD. THE FBI IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY. BOTH MEN CLAIM THAT UNDER CURRENT LAW, INFORMATION THAT IS HIGHLY DETRIMENTAL TO U.S. NATIONAL

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